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Claims:

1. A cooler structure for use in cooling a surface, the  
5       cooler structure comprising a backing panel and,  
          supported on the backing panel, cooling medium in heat  
          transfer relationship with the backing panel.
  
2. A cooler structure according to claim 1, wherein the  
10      cooler structure has a zone within the periphery of  
          the structure through which a target zone of the  
          surface may be accessed.
  
3. A cooler structure according to claim 2 wherein the  
15      zone within the periphery of the cooler structure,  
          through which a target zone of the surface may be  
          accessed, is bounded by a cooling zone of the  
          structure having the cooling medium supported on the  
          structure.
  
4. A cooler structure according to claim 2 or claim 3,  
20      wherein the zone within the periphery of the cooler  
          structure through which a target zone of the surface  
          may be accessed comprises a removable or at least  
          partially displaceable portion of the cooler  
25      structure.
  
5. A cooler according to any of claims 2 to 4, wherein  
          the zone within the periphery of the cooler structure  
          through which a target zone of the surface may be  
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accessed includes a portion of the backing panel and carries cooling medium.

6. A cooler structure according to any preceding claim,  
5 wherein the cooling medium is present over an area of the structure corresponding to substantially 60% or more of the backing panel.

7. A cooler structure according to any preceding claim,  
10 wherein the cooling medium is present over an area of the structure corresponding to substantially 70% or more of the backing panel.

8. cooler structure according to any preceding claim,  
15 wherein the cooling medium is present over an area of the structure corresponding to substantially 80% or more of the backing panel.

9. A cooler structure according to any preceding claim,  
20 wherein the backing panel is substantially liquid impermeable.

10. A cooler structure according to any preceding claim,  
25 wherein the backing panel comprises a plastics material.

11. A cooler structure according to any preceding claim,  
wherein the backing panel comprises flexible sheet material.

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12. A cooler structure according to any preceding claim, wherein the cooling medium comprises material to be hydrated or already hydrated material.

5 13. A cooler structure according to any preceding claim wherein the cooling medium comprises an absorbent polymer material.

10 14. A cooler structure according to any preceding claim, wherein the cooling medium is in granular, particulate or hydrogel form.

15 15. A cooler structure according to any preceding claim, wherein the cooling medium is contained within pockets present on the structure.

16. A cooler structure according to claim 15 wherein the discrete pockets effectively permanently retain dosed quantities of the cooling medium.

20 17. A cooler structure according to claim 15 or 16, wherein the pockets have a panel portion defined by a liquid permeable material.

25 18. A cooler structure according to any of claims 15 to 17, wherein the pockets have a panel portion defined by the backing panel of the structure.

30 19. A cooler structure according to any of claims 15 to 18, wherein the pockets are defined by weld seam lines

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along adjacent sheets comprising the pockets.

20. A cooler structure according to any preceding claim,  
wherein the structure is provided with mounting means  
5 for securing the structure in position on the surface.

21. A cooler structure according to claim 20 wherein the  
mounting means comprises one or more sucker cups.

10 22. A method of cooling a surface, particularly a vehicle  
windscreen, the method comprising positioning a cooler  
structure according to any preceding claim in position  
with the backing panel of the cooler structure  
adjacent the windscreen.

15 23. A method of repairing a flaw (such as a crack or  
break) in a vehicle windscreen, the method comprising  
positioning a cooler structure in position with a  
backing panel of the cooler structure in contact with  
20 the windscreen; permitting a period of time to elapse;  
and carrying out a repair process on the flaw.

25 24. A method according to claim 23, wherein the cooler  
structure has a zone within the periphery of the  
cooler structure which zone is positioned over the  
flaw in the windscreen and through which zone the flaw  
of the windscreen may be accessed.

30 25. A method according to claim 23 or claim 24, wherein  
the repair process is carried out on the flaw whilst

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the cooler is in situ, positioned on the windscreen..

26. A method according to any of claims 23 to 25, using a cooler structure according to any of claims 1 to 21.

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27. A method of manufacturing a cooler structure, the method comprising welding a liquid permeable sheet material to a liquid impermeable backing along weld lines to form a series of pockets containing a cooling medium retained in the pockets.

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28. A kit comprising a cooler structure according to any of claims 1 to 21, and a carrier container for containing the cooler structure in a hydrated state.

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29. A kit according to claim 28, further including a container for dispensing hydrating liquid to hydrate the cooler structure.